

Serial No. 10/658,079
Attorney Docket No. 434830-00002
Amendment

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-26 and 29-31 have been amended.

Claim 2 has been cancelled by this paper and claims 27 and 28 have been canceled by a previously filed paper.

Claims 1, 5, 23 and 29-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,868,841 to Affleck et al.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-4, 6-22 and 25-26 would be allowable if written in independent form. Thus, claims 1, 29 and 30 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 and claim 2 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-31 are allowable over Affleck et al.

Claims 1 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,641,795 to Abe.

Applicant submits that the amendment to claim 1 discussed above has rendered the rejection of claims 1 and 24 moot. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-31 are allowable over Abe.

Claim 31 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,730,845 to Harper et al.

Claim 31 has been amended to specify that the support is selected from the group consisting of conductive graphite, carbon nanotubes, activated carbon granules, and carbonaceous adsorbents. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-31 are allowable over Harper et al.

In light of the foregoing, the Examiner's rejections of claims 1, 5, 23, 24 and 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are respectfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and formal notice thereof is respectfully requested.

The Applicant hereby authorize the Commissioner under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) to treat any paper that is filed in this application, which requires an extension of time, as incorporating a request for such an extension. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees

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required by this paper or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0809.

Respectfully submitted,



Victor J. Wasylyna
Reg. No. 52,345

THOMPSON HINE LLP
2000 Courthouse Plaza NE
10 West Second Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-1758
PH (937) 443-6812

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